THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) Stocks of wheat are in excess Of requirements of buffer stocking policy.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As against the target of 153.6 million tonne.s for foodgrains production during the crop year 1984.85 (July-June), the actual achievement was 146.2 million tonnes.

<€) The current level of wheat stocks continues to be in excess of buffer stocking policy requirements.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. However, quantity of foodgrains which got damaged during storage (in covered godowns and GAP together) and transport due to rains, floods and cj'-clones is given below for the last two years:

Period	Quantity transferred from sound to damaged grains. (Lakh tonnes)	% of damages to average stock holding
1983-84	1·01	0·85
1984-85	0·65	0·40

(h) During 19«6-87, the Food Corporation of India, Central Warehousing Cdrporation and the 16 State Warehousing Corporations together are expected to construct a storage capacity of 16.75 lakh tonnes for foodgrains. The Food Corporation of India is also making efforts to hire additional storage capacity in addition to cover and plinth (CAP) sto'rage arrangements.

Export of Iron Ore to Japan

2278. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government recently signed any agreement with Japan for the exjpert of Kudremukh iron, ore; and

. (b) if so, what are the details in this- regard and the quantum of foreign exchange likely to be earned thereby?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) A miemorandum of Uunderstand-ing has been signed between the > Japanese Steel Mills, Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd., and Kud'remukh Iron Ore Company Ltd., for export of 2.5 .million tonnes of iron ore concentrates from Kudremukh during 1986-87. The shipments will take place from New Mangalore Port. The i foreign exchange likely to be earned *ffovld* be approximately Rs. 38 crores.

Legislation for safety in factories

2279. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: • Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward a comprehensive legislation regarding safety measures in factories and protection of environment from exposure of chemicals and toxic substances; and

Kb)' if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The amendments to the Factories Act, 1948 are yet to be finalised.

Bill on Child Labour

2280. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whethex; a comprehensive Bill on child labour is being drawn ua by his Ministry;